[English]

Criteria of Local Call

935. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria under which some of the towns around Delhi such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Ghaziabad etc. have telephone connections with Delhi on local call basis;

(b) whether such criteria is not applicable in the case of towns in Sonepat district of Haryana;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to extend this facility to the towns of Sonepat districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Ghaziabad towns have been given inter-dialling facility with Delhi on 180 sec. pulse rate as their local telephone systems have common boundary with that of Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir. This criteria is also applicable to 3 towns viz. Kundli, Akbarpur Barota and Nahra towns of Sonepat district of Haryana.

(c) and (d). This facility is already available between Kondli and Delhi. Two towns viz. Akbarpur Barota and Nahra are proposed to be provided this facility in near future. Other towns of Sonepat Dist. do not meet the criteria and hence do not qualify for this facility.

(e) Not applicable in view of (c) and (d) above.

Reservation of seats in trains for handicapped persons

936. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Government's policy regarding reservation of seats in trains for handicapped persons;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the same and increase their quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following facilities have been provided to the handicapped persons :

(i) Two berths in sleeper class have been earmarked for handicapped passengers and their escorts.

(ii) Separate accommodation has been earmarked in suburban trains for handicapped persons.

(iii) One seat near the door in every second class compartment is being earmarked for handicapped persons.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The reserved accommodation available in the train is subjected to periodical review and suitable adjustments are made wherever necessary based on the traffic justification and availability of accommodation in the trains.

Direct Train from Asansol to North-Eastern States

937. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no direct train from Asansol to North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether there is a persistent demand for the introduction of direct train;

(c) whether the Government have taken initiative to introduce such train;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to operational/resource constraints.

STD/ISD Facility in Jaunpur

938. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD/ISD facility at Singramau and Badalapur of district Jaunpur is out of order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint/correspondence have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon;

(e) whether there is any scheme of providing exemption to the subscribers on rents/bills for the period when the lines were out of order;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?